

## **Final Report of Child Fatality or Near Fatality**

Date Prepared: 8/8/14  
Prepared by: Amber E. Gillum, Acting State Director  
South Carolina Department of Social Services  
P.O. Box 1520  
Columbia, South Carolina 29202

DOB: 10/01/12      Race: W      Gender: F

Type of Report:      X   Fatality         Near Fatality

Date of Fatality or Near Fatality: 12/11/12

### **Cause and Circumstances of the Child Fatality or Near Fatality**

Date Report Accepted for Investigation: 12/11/12

Summary of Allegations: On 12/11/12, SCDSS received a report alleging that a two-month-old child may have been shaken and may not survive injuries. The child has three siblings.

Date Investigation Initiated: 12/11/12

Case Decision: The case was indicated for physical abuse and substantial risk of physical abuse by the mother and father.

Date of Case Decision: 1/22/13

Basis for Case Decision: The child presented at hospital with injuries consistent with child abuse. The child subsequently died from the injuries. The father was arrested for Homicide by Child Abuse. The mother was arrested for Unlawful Neglect. The siblings who were capable of communicating verbally completed forensic interviews. A sibling described observing the father abusing the child. The mother and father tested positive for methamphetamines. Drug paraphernalia was found in the home. A sibling tested positive for methamphetamines. Additional criminal charges against the parents regarding meth exposure are pending.

### **The Department's Response After the Fatality or Near Fatality**

SCDSS placed the siblings of the deceased child in foster care for eleven days until the maternal grandfather was granted legal custody of the siblings.

The mother was offered substance abuse treatment counseling and random drug testing, but she was discharged by the service provider due to non-compliance. The father remains incarcerated for Homicide by Child Abuse. The Grandfather was offered vouchers to assist with daycare for the children.

The case was closed on 2/28/13.

A court hearing was held on 2/20/13. SCDSS was relieved of the obligation to provide services due to the severity of abuse. The court granted permanent custody of the children to the grandfather. The grandfather demonstrated protective capacity and no longer needs assistance through SCDSS.

Previous Child Abuse or Neglect Investigations that are Pertinent to the Child Fatality or Near Fatality. (Note: State law prohibits disclosure of records or information in unfounded cases).

The family had no prior child protective services history.